

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected  
NOV 28 2012  
FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am a deaf person who uses Video Relay Services (VRS) for my communication with hearing people. VRS is a communication tool I use every day.

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is considering making changes to the VRS program that would reduce the quality of, and access to, a service that is crucial for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. I hope that you will oppose these changes. I have submitted comments to the FCC and wanted to share them with you.

I am very concerned about the recent proposals to change the way VRS works.

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) assured deaf people access to "functionally-equivalent" communication - choices and services similar to those enjoyed by hearing people.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, I won't have what the ADA promised me - choice in my VRS equipment. I want choices.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, I won't have a choice in my VRS provider. I don't want my calls to be routed through a centralized database that would assign my calls to different providers. Hearing people have a choice in service providers. I want a choice.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect and there are rate cuts for VRS providers, the quality of my service will suffer. I'm concerned that with very limited resources, VRS providers might have to make changes that would result in longer hold times and unreliable service. Hearing people have a choice to choose quality service. I don't want VRS quality to suffer because VRS providers have no choice but to cut aspects of their service.

Please fulfill the promises of the ADA! I want functional equivalency. I want choices - in equipment, providers and quality. Please ensure that the VRS services I currently enjoy are maintained.

Sincerely,

*Alice L. Duncan*

Name: Alice L. Duncan

Title: Resident

Address: 2428 E. Apache Blvd #202 Tempe, Az 85281

Telephone Number:  
1-480-646-3651

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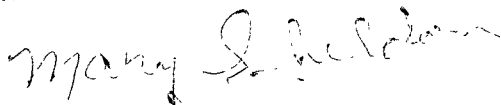
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Sincerely,



Name: Mary Sheldon

Title: President

Address: 2422 E Apache Blvd. #223, Tempe, AZ 85221

Telephone Number: 480-317-9191

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I am very concerned about the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) recent proposals to change the way VRS works. I can't imagine life without the current services I use. I don't want to see those services change!

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) assured deaf people access to "functionally-equivalent" communication - choices and services similar to those enjoyed by hearing people.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, I won't have what the ADA promised me - choice in my VRS equipment. I want options to choose products designed for deaf people. I want choices.

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Sincerely,

Name: MARIANNA BERENYI

Title: ~~VRS/FCC~~ CARE TAKER - Resident

Address: 2428 E. APACHE BLVD #205  
TEMPE, AZ 85281

Telephone Number: (480) 646-3741

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Sincerely,

*Randy Hale*

Name: *Randy Hale*

Title: *Assistant Manager*

Address: *2422 E - Apache Blvd #401, Tempe, AZ 85281*

Telephone Number: *480-646-3634 VP*

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*My family & I depend on VP for communication, also  
our work environment as the asst manager requires VP for  
communication as well for both deaf & hearing world.  
Please reconsider & keep VP going this is the best technology  
we have for the deaf community throughout the world!*

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Sincerely,

Name: *Jordan Russell*

Title: *manager*

Address: *2428 E Apache Blvd #211 Tempe AZ 85281*

Telephone Number: *480-305-0221*

No. of Copies 150 1  
List 10000

*Do not take away my right to equal access to communication. My son & I are both deaf and depend on VP to communicate with each other and others. My son cannot read or write well due to language limitations, and is ASL native. Keep VPs!!!*

✓  
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I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am opposed to the changes being considered.

VRS has created a more level playing field for people like me who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, empowering us to communicate via videophone with anyone at any time in our native language, American Sign Language. The nature of the work I do requires that I be able to use the phone to communicate with colleagues, clients and business associates regardless of whether they are hearing or deaf. Without reliable, high-quality VRS service I would not be able to do my job effectively.

The changes the FCC is considering would drastically change the nature of the VRS I depend on. One of the aspects of VRS that makes it such an effective way to communicate is the quality of the videophone technology used and the fact that the products provided by VRS companies have been developed specifically with the needs of the deaf – my needs – in mind. Yet, the FCC is considering changes that would, instead, force us to use off-the-shelf products and government-mandated software. Using products developed by and for people who are hearing would be a huge step backwards! The FCC cannot consider this to be a reasonable replacement for the high quality, specialized VRS technology we use every day.

The rate changes being considered by the FCC would also directly affect my ability to access VRS, as well as the reliability and quality of service I depend on. If the FCC slashes the rates paid to VRS providers, as suggested in its Public Notice, many companies will simply stop providing this essential service. This will put me and all members of the deaf community at a significant disadvantage.

In my view, VRS today is a shining example of what Congress intended when it passed the Americans with Disabilities Act 22 years ago. It is absolutely essential that any changes to the current program maintain the access, innovation and reliability that define VRS today.

Sincerely,

Name Bert Rains

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2201 MILTON RD UNIVERSITY HTS, OHIO 44118

Telephone Number (216) 383-9040

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I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am very concerned about these proposals and how they will affect my family's safety.

VRS is a lifeline. It allows me to conduct business, connect with my family and friends and do many other things over the phone that many hearing people take for granted. Most important, though, VRS is how I access my local emergency 911 service. In an emergency I know that when I place a 911 call it will be answered immediately. My location will be known. And, specially trained American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be there to make sure my local emergency responders know exactly what help I need. You can't imagine how frightening it is to think that I might not be able to get help for me or my family because of long hold times, poorly trained interpreters, or bad equipment.

Cutting the rates paid to VRS providers as low as the FCC proposes will only reduce service quality I currently depend on. How will these companies hire and keep skilled ASL interpreters on staff when the government has just cut what they are willing to pay them by \$2 an hour? How will 911 calls be answered immediately when there are fewer interpreters and longer hold times? How will I know that my VRS will work when I'm using a videophone from WalMart instead of the specially designed videophone from my VRS provider?

I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system.

Sincerely,

Name Bert Rains

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2201 Milton Rd University Hts, Ohio 44118

Telephone Number (216) 383-9040

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I am writing to provide my comments on Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Public Notice on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates."

I am deaf and VRS is how I stay in touch with my family and friends who are not deaf. I'm sure that hearing people don't think about what it means to be able to pick up the phone and call anyone any time or anywhere they want. But for me, this means everything. VRS has changed my life.

I am alarmed that the FCC is proposing to dramatically change the VRS program. Why is the FCC going out of its way to fix something that isn't broken?

I think there are two crucial reasons to keep the current VRS system in place.

First, I like the company I do business with. I don't want to be forced to switch companies because the one I work with has gone out of business.

Second, I don't want to have to buy and set up my own VRS equipment. I got my equipment at no cost from my VRS provider. They installed it and continue to maintain it. It would be unfair to now shift this burden to me and other deaf people. If the government wants to prevent deaf people from connecting with others and using VRS, this is a good way to do it.

The VRS program works for people who are deaf. It's how we communicate every day with the hearing world and how the hearing world communicates with us. Any changes to the program must be in the best interest of deaf Americans. The changes being considered by the FCC are not.

Sincerely,

Name Bert Raine

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2201 Milton Rd #402 University Hts, Ohio 44119

Telephone Number (216) 383-9040



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I am not deaf, but I know firsthand how VRS works. VRS allows people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing to use the "phone" to communicate comfortably and easily just like people who can hear. In this way, it has changed the lives of so many people who are deaf. With VRS they can do the things we take for granted – make a doctor's appointment, call a child's school, or simply order a pizza. VRS puts people who are deaf on a more level playing field.

The changes being considered by the FCC would undo much of this progress. VRS largely relies on highly skilled American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. These are the people who relay the conversation between the deaf and the hearing participants. The FCC wants to drastically cut the rate they pay VRS companies for providing this service. Obviously, this will have an immediate and negative effect on the ability of VRS companies to employ and train qualified interpreters.

The FCC has also suggested that VRS can be just as effectively provided through government-mandated software that is used on off-the-shelf equipment like common videophones, computers, the iPad, or a smart TV. While such equipment can provide a convenient backup solution, it can't replace the videophones and other technologies provided by VRS providers. These have been specifically designed to take into account the special needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

If the FCC takes away skilled ASL interpreters and innovative equipment, VRS as we know it today won't exist. This would be a huge step backward for the rights and opportunities of Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Sincerely,

Name ~~Barbara Rains~~ Parly Rains

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2201 MILTON RD. #402, UNIV. HTS, OH. 44118

Telephone Number 216-383-9040

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I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system.

Sincerely,

Name NINA Beck

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 661 Cuddebon Rd. Eden, N.C. 27288-2885

Telephone Number 336-612-0107

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If the FCC takes away skilled ASL interpreters and innovative equipment, VRS as we know it today won't exist. This would be a huge step backward for the rights and opportunities of Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Sincerely,

Name Jay Baranek

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 13104 Tilden Ave N Champlin

Telephone Number 612-703-6339

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Sincerely,

Name Jason Bourassa

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 13104 Tilden Ave N Champlin, MN 55316

Telephone Number 763-528-2614

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Sincerely,

Name Tara Lynn Focht

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 49364 Clover Trail, Rush City, MN 55009

Telephone Number 62-230-0836

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Sincerely,

Name Paul + Sylvia Cantaloube

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 4016 ORCHARD Hills Dr. SALIDA CALIF 95368

Telephone Number 209 566 1149

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The changes being considered by the FCC would undo much of this progress. VRS largely relies on highly skilled American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. These are the people who relay the conversation between the deaf and the hearing participants. The FCC wants to drastically cut the rate they pay VRS companies for providing this service. Obviously, this will have an immediate and negative effect on the ability of VRS companies to employ and train qualified interpreters.

The FCC has also suggested that VRS can be just as effectively provided through government-mandated software that is used on off-the-shelf equipment like common videophones, computers, the iPad, or a smart TV. While such equipment can provide a convenient backup solution, it can't replace the videophones and other technologies provided by VRS providers. These have been specifically designed to take into account the special needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

If the FCC takes away skilled ASL interpreters and innovative equipment, VRS as we know it today won't exist. This would be a huge step backward for the rights and opportunities of Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Sincerely,

Name Julie Quinzer

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1241 2nd St S+PP Mn 55071

Telephone Number 612-327-1129

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
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Office of the Secretary  
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Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 28 2012

FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am very concerned that the changes being considered by the FCC will destroy a program that is vitally important to people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

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Sincerely,

Name

Title, if appropriate

Address

17855 Cord 33 Green Isle Mn. 55338

Telephone Number

none

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FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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Sincerely,

Name

Title, if appropriate

Address

Telephone Number







11/28/2012  
11:06

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

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CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

FCC Mail Room

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Sincerely,

Name Riley Quenzler

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1241 2nd St SE PP 55071

Telephone Number 512-327-1129

11/28/2012  
11:50:08

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12th Street, SW  
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Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 28 2012

FCC Mail Room

**CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51**

I am a deaf person who uses Video Relay Services (VRS) for my communication with hearing people. VRS is a communication tool I use every day.

I am writing because I am very concerned about the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) recent proposals to change the way VRS works. I can't imagine life without the current services I use. I don't want to see those services change!

The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) moved deaf people forward and opened up opportunities for us. The ADA assured deaf people (like me) that we will have access to "functionally-equivalent" communication – communication choices and services similar to those enjoyed by hearing people. To date, Video Relay Service (VRS) is the most functionally-equivalent communication service for deaf people.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, I won't have what the ADA promised me – choice in my VRS equipment. I want to keep options available in choosing products that were designed for deaf people. I want choices.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect, I won't have a choice in my VRS provider. I don't want my calls to be routed through a centralized database that would assign my calls to different providers. Hearing people have a choice in service providers. I want a choice.

I am concerned that if the FCC's proposals go into effect and there are rate cuts for VRS providers, the quality of my service will suffer. I'm concerned that with very limited resources, VRS providers might have to make changes that would result in longer hold times and unreliable service. Hearing people have a choice to choose quality service. I don't want VRS quality to suffer because VRS providers have no choice but to cut aspects of their service.

Please fulfill the promises of the ADA! I want functional equivalency. I want choices – in equipment, providers and quality. Please ensure that the VRS services I currently enjoy are maintained.

Sincerely,

Name:

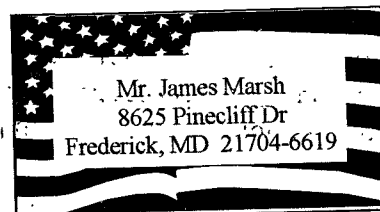
Title:

Address:

Telephone Number:

*James R. Marsh*

*240-575-2188*



By signing this document, you are filing an official FCC proceeding. All information submitted, including names and addresses, will be publicly available via the web.

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FCC Mail Room

**CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51**

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Please fulfill the promises of the ADA! I want functional equivalency. I want choices – in equipment, providers and quality. Please ensure that the VRS services I currently enjoy are maintained.

Sincerely,

Name: *Elizabeth W. Marsh*

Title: *Retired*

Address: *8625 Pinecliff Dr. Frederick, MD 21704*

Telephone Number: *240-575-2188*



**Ms Elizabeth Marsh**  
8625 Pinecliff Dr  
Frederick, MD 21704-6619

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445 12th Street, SW  
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Washington, DC 20554

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FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am opposed to the changes being considered.

VRS has created a more level playing field for people like me who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, empowering us to communicate via videophone with anyone at any time in our native language, American Sign Language. The nature of the work I do requires that I be able to use the phone to communicate with colleagues, clients and business associates regardless of whether they are hearing or deaf. Without reliable, high-quality VRS service I would not be able to do my job effectively.

The changes the FCC is considering would drastically change the nature of the VRS I depend on. One of the aspects of VRS that makes it such an effective way to communicate is the quality of the videophone technology used and the fact that the products provided by VRS companies have been developed specifically with the needs of the deaf – my needs – in mind. Yet, the FCC is considering changes that would, instead, force us to use off-the-shelf products and government-mandated software. Using products developed by and for people who are hearing would be a huge step backwards! The FCC cannot consider this to be a reasonable replacement for the high quality, specialized VRS technology we use every day.

The rate changes being considered by the FCC would also directly affect my ability to access VRS, as well as the reliability and quality of service I depend on. If the FCC slashes the rates paid to VRS providers, as suggested in its Public Notice, many companies will simply stop providing this essential service. This will put me and all members of the deaf community at a significant disadvantage.

In my view, VRS today is a shining example of what Congress intended when it passed the Americans with Disabilities Act 22 years ago. It is absolutely essential that any changes to the current program maintain the access, innovation and reliability that define VRS today.

Sincerely,

Name Severly Taylor

Title, if appropriate Deafened Ohio and apt 32

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number 216-370-7099

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
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Washington, DC 20554

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FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am writing in response to the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC's) request for comments on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates." I am very concerned about these proposals and how they will affect my family's safety.

VRS is a lifeline. It allows me to conduct business, connect with my family and friends and do many other things over the phone that many hearing people take for granted. Most important, though, VRS is how I access my local emergency 911 service. In an emergency I know that when I place a 911 call it will be answered immediately. My location will be known. And, specially trained American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be there to make sure my local emergency responders know exactly what help I need. You can't imagine how frightening it is to think that I might not be able to get help for me or my family because of long hold times, poorly trained interpreters, or bad equipment.

Cutting the rates paid to VRS providers as low as the FCC proposes will only reduce service quality I currently depend on. How will these companies hire and keep skilled ASL interpreters on staff when the government has just cut what they are willing to pay them by \$2 an hour? How will 911 calls be answered immediately when there are fewer interpreters and longer hold times? How will I know that my VRS will work when I'm using a videophone from WalMart instead of the specially designed videophone from my VRS provider?

I hope the FCC has answers to all of the questions before it considers changing the current system.

Sincerely,

Name Beverly Taylor

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 4312 Delwood Ave apt. 244  
Lakewood, Ohio 44157

Telephone Number 216-370-7099

:

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Washington, DC 20554

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NOV 28 2012

FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

I am writing to provide my comments on Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Public Notice on the "Structure and practices of the video relay service (VRS) program and on proposed VRS compensation rates."

I am deaf and VRS is how I stay in touch with my family and friends who are not deaf. I'm sure that hearing people don't think about what it means to be able to pick up the phone and call anyone any time or anywhere they want. But for me, this means everything. VRS has changed my life.

I am alarmed that the FCC is proposing to dramatically change the VRS program. Why is the FCC going out of its way to fix something that isn't broken?

I think there are two crucial reasons to keep the current VRS system in place.

First, I like the company I do business with. I don't want to be forced to switch companies because the one I work with has gone out of business.

Second, I don't want to have to buy and set up my own VRS equipment. I got my equipment at no cost from my VRS provider. They installed it and continue to maintain it. It would be unfair to now shift this burden to me and other deaf people. If the government wants to prevent deaf people from connecting with others and using VRS, this is a good way to do it.

The VRS program works for people who are deaf. It's how we communicate every day with the hearing world and how the hearing world communicates with us. Any changes to the program must be in the best interest of deaf Americans. The changes being considered by the FCC are not.

Sincerely,

Name Brendy Faykua

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 14312 Detroit Ave. #214  
Lakewood Chicago

Telephone Number 26-370-7099

11/28/2012 042  
11/28/2012

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
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Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

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FCC Mail Room

CG Docket Nos. 03-123 and 10-51

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The changes being considered by the FCC would undo much of this progress. VRS largely relies on highly skilled American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters. These are the people who relay the conversation between the deaf and the hearing participants. The FCC wants to drastically cut the rate they pay VRS companies for providing this service. Obviously, this will have an immediate and negative effect on the ability of VRS companies to employ and train qualified interpreters.

The FCC has also suggested that VRS can be just as effectively provided through government-mandated software that is used on off-the-shelf equipment like common videophones, computers, the iPad, or a smart TV. While such equipment can provide a convenient backup solution, it can't replace the videophones and other technologies provided by VRS providers. These have been specifically designed to take into account the special needs of the deaf and hard-of-hearing.

If the FCC takes away skilled ASL interpreters and innovative equipment, VRS as we know it today won't exist. This would be a huge step backward for the rights and opportunities of Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Sincerely,

Name Della Wennie

Title, if appropriate \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1459 Wyandotte ave

Telephone Number 216-227-1490

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JDE



November 19, 2012

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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
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Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

NOV 28 2012

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I am not deaf, but I know firsthand how VRS works. VRS allows deaf or hard-of-hearing people to use the "phone" to communicate comfortably and easily just like people who can hear. In this way, it has changed the lives of so many people who are deaf, especially those who are not comfortable with the written word. With VRS they can do the things we take for granted – make a doctor's appointment, call a child's school, or simply order a pizza. VRS puts people who are deaf on a more level playing field.

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If the FCC takes away skilled ASL interpreters and innovative equipment, VRS as we know it today won't exist. This would be a huge step backward for the rights and opportunities of Americans who are deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Sincerely,

Name

*Nancy E Lee*

Title, if appropriate

Address

*POB 19064, Mpls, MN 55419*

Telephone Number

0  
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